GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2032
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Priority to Higher Education System
Devi Smt. Rama;Jadhav Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerns have been raised that the Ministry is giving priority to private higher education system in place of primary and middle education in the country;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard along with the corrective measures taken by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)
(a) to (c): No, Sir. The extant National Policy on Education (NPE) provides for a National System of Education which implies that, up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curriculum framework and minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all sections of the society. Having nearly reached the goals of universalizing elementary education, and making substantial gains in expanding access to secondary and higher education, the focus is on improving the quality of education at all levels. Several schemes are being implemented by the Ministry so as to enhance access to public funded education across all levels ranging from elementary, secondary, higher and technical education. These include implementing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) which makes it incumbent on Government to provide free and compulsory education to all children of 6-14 years of age and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for universalizing elementary education. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) scheme aims at making good quality education available, accessible and affordable to all young persons in the age group of 14 to 18 years. In higher Education, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), state higher educational institutions are being strengthened.
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